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December, 2005

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES REGION 16
REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2005 – 5:00 P.M.
WESTERN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, MT. VERNON, IN

Present for the meeting were Virginia Combs, Judge James Redwine, Judge W. Timothy Crowley, Judge David O. Kelley, Steve Cunningham, William L. Buckman, Judy Harper, Juanita Working, Julie Weeks, Chris Hoehn and Susan Blackburn.

Mrs. Combs, Regional Manager, presided.

Mrs. Combs introduced Julie Weeks from Pike County as the Family Case Manager Representative for the Council.

Steve Cunningham moved to approve the corrected minutes from the October 11, 2005 meeting. Judge Kelley seconded the motion and it carried. A motion was made by Judge Crowley, and seconded by Judge Kelley to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2005 meeting and the motion was carried.

Mrs. Combs reported that IV-B coordinator Anita Osburn was unable to attend the meeting, but could be contacted by phone to answer any questions regarding IV-B.

Mrs. Combs reviewed the 2006 – 2008 Child Welfare Plan schedule. She will ask Dodson, Shively and Associates to prepare a summary chart of the service proposals. There was discussion of a need for council members to review the actual proposals versus just the completed scoring sheets. It was decided that all voting members will receive from Mrs. Combs a copy of the summary chart as well as the proposals and a copy of the score sheets as soon as Mrs. Combs receives them. Mrs. Combs stressed the importance for all County Directors and voting council members to attend the January 26, 2006 meeting. The County Directors will present the proposals and they will be voted upon at that time.



Protecting our children, families and future

The three top service gaps identified by council members from the 09/16/05 Regional Staffing included: Housing, Transitional Living Services for 17 – 18 year olds, and Drug Treatment Program. Mrs. Combs will ask Anita Osborn to review them for ideas regarding development of resources in these areas.

The Regional Service Council draft protocol was reviewed and the need to follow the “Open Door” Law was discussed. Suggestions were made that the membership rotation schedule should be left to the council to determine, and that monthly meetings may not always be necessary.

Mrs. Combs brought to the members’ attention that also included in the packet that was distributed, is a list of Judges serving on Regional Service Councils throughout the State of Indiana.

Additional business discussed included the Master Contract being developed by the State for residential facilities.

Judge Crowley brought two pieces of proposed legislation to the council’s attention. House Bill #01001 concerns the elimination of Child Welfare Levees and transfers the funding of services to the State. Preliminary draft #3678 decreases the time frame for many CHINS Hearings. Concerns were expressed that this proposed legislation would negatively impact court calendars and not allow sufficient time for families to benefit from reunification services.

The council agreed that a central location for meetings would be best, at least through the winter months. Susan Blackburn will seek a location in Gibson County for the January, February and March meetings.

The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2006 in Gibson County.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Blackburn

VC/cjc